MONTEREY NEWS

October 2015

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The Town

By Jill Pajka

Notes on select board meetings from August 24 through September 14.

Future Town Administrator

The select board has held numerous discussions this year regarding the future of several town hall positions, including town administrator and tax collector, as well as the accountant and treasurer positions. On August 24, they met with Joe Kellogg, whom the board had hoped would be able to continue to provide advice on town hall organization due to his town hall experience in Great Barrington and Lenox. While Kellogg is not able to make enough time to consult, he offered supportive advice on having a town administrator for Monterey.

"This is a chance to take something and start to create it," he explained. "It's a blank slate. You'll need the right person with the right experience, personality, and ability to learn. Create a job description and a contract…not an interim, and hire the person." He added, "It should be very clear that they're here to learn."

Kellogg emphasized the importance of all three select board members supporting the idea of a town administrator, if it is to be initiated. "Government is too complex for three part-time people to do it," Kellogg advocated. "You have all the same paperwork as the town of Boston." Kellogg explained that in his version of the town administrator's position, they would become the "number four" to the board of three, with the board determining and shaping the responsibilities of the position based on the town's needs. The board would continue to be the ultimate authority for the town. The board determined that the position will require a bachelor's degree, five years of management experience, or a combination of both. They also decided that a less qualified person could be acceptable if their personality fits with that of existing employees. The salary range is set to be $30-40,000 for 20 hours a week, with benefits, and support and assistance from the full-time clerical staff. The board will review surrounding town administrator job descriptions in order create and gain approval for the position at town meeting.

"I'm really skeptical that at $30-40,000, we'll have somebody that can jump into the fray and go with it," worried select board member Steve Weisz. "I don't want to turn this position into more work for the select board than less…look how long New Marlborough waited until they found Mari," he continued, referencing the struggle the neighboring town experienced in their search for a qualified, well-suited person for the T.A. job.

"Are we supposed to start fishing in other people's ponds?" Weisz asked Kellogg.

"Yes!" exclaimed Kellogg. "You need someone with experience to make your job easier, not harder."

Stephen Moore

What an amazing year for apples and pears, as this bending branch shows (better live and in color). Reportedly, the crop hasn't been this abundant since the early '90s.

Town Treasurer and Accountant

Subtractions and Additions

On August 24, the select board met with Brendan Fletcher, town accountant, and Bethany Mielke, treasurer, to discuss the end-of-the-year reports, payroll, and budget.

In a seemingly positive start to the meeting, spirits were high when Fletcher affirmed, "We are under total expenditures by a quarter of a million dollars." Fletcher confirmed that he would have all the end-of-year forms completed that week, even though the deadline is not until October. Adding to the pleasant news, Mielke re-

ported that the September 5 start date for the fire department's payroll submission was ready to go. "I like good news!" exclaimed select board member Ken Basler. Weisz and Mielke then made a plan to finish the set up of the govpaynet credit card system.

Earlier this month, the select board had voiced their frustrations in meeting (or the lack of meeting) with the town treasurer and accountant, as well as their concerns for next year's elections in May. Weisz had also discussed his work with govpaynet and the new credit card payment system. He noted with frustration that he had not been able to meet with the treasurer to complete the additional items necessary.Basler and Weisz agreed that the current availability, work schedules, and continued absences of the treasurer and accountant have led others to come to the board with issues concerning things not being done on time or completed successfully.

Looking curiously behind her at the "special town meeting" whiteboard, Mielke inquired about the "Term of Treasurer" phrase written on the list. Jenssen explained, "We're trying to change it [the town treasurer position] to a one-year term, if voted so at town meeting." This would be a change from the current three-year term. The position would eventually become an appointed position.

As soon as Mielke seemed satisfied with the board's answer, Fletcher stood and walked up to the board members' table, placing a piece of paper before them. "Consider this my two-week notice," he said. "It's time for me to move on." Without a second to waste, Mielke was behind Fletcher and handed in her own two-weeks' notice to the board with a simple, "Me too." Rather shocked, the board members sat speechless while the two exited the room.

"This leaves a tremendous, immediate void," said Jenssen. The board began to discuss plans and ideas for an interim treasurer, the need for an immediate job posting for the accountant position, and pondered the possibilities of having the current town clerk also be the town treasurer. "Can a clerk even be appointed as a temporary treasurer?" inquired Jenssen. Weisz agreed to call the town counsel on the matter. The board agreed the future treasurer position is to be a part-time, no-benefits, less-than-twenty-hour-per-week position.

After posting these positions and conducting interviews, it would seem that the select board took Kellogg's advice to "fish outside our own pond" to heart. On September 14, the board appointed Sue Funk as interim town treasurer (until the annual town elections in May). The board unanimously chose Paul Lisi, Jr. as accountant. He is currently the town treasurer of Richmond and town accountant in Egremont and has vast experience in municipal accounting. "He has a reputation of just doing it all," supported Jenssen. "We've suffered in the past with accountants not knowing what to do." (See page 3, "Treasurers and Accountants, Their Responsibilities.")

Milfoil Disappointment

On August 24, the select board discussed the significant milfoil issues plaguing Lake Garfield and Lake Buel and the current plan that could help to rid the waters of their invasive plight. First and foremost, the board reviewed a report from Mike Germain regarding details on the cost of mechanical harvesting and removal of the milfoil for the next five years. (See page 8, "Lake Garfield Survey.")

"It's a little disappointing," said Scott Jenssen, chair of the select board, responding to Germain's estimation and recommendation for harvesting the milfoil. The milfoil has been mapped out by divers in both lakes, and the invasion is much larger than expected. Frustrated with Germain's vague estimation of $50,000 per year, Jenssen and the other select board members discussed the management of the lake and compared notes on milfoil removal, including dosing with the chemical SONAR as well as mechanical harvesting. As they discussed it, benefits and drawbacks rose to the surface.

SONAR is approved by the FDA, and has a history of success in other lakes, but is nonselective and toxic and there are still many unknowns about the long-term effects. "The idea of pouring chemicals into a lake does not rest easy with me," said Weisz. "It's not a one-time application… but the other option is to harvest it ,and either way, it will be a yearly need."

"I'd like to see the select board get more actively involved in the challenges that are facing Lake Garfield and Lake Buel," said Jenssen. The discussion and plans to save the lakes continue.

Solo Board Member in Town Hall

Over the past couple of weeks, the select board has discussed the idea of one select board member holding office hours at town hall on a regular basis. Weisz advocated for having more of a select board presence in town hall. He explains that he feels this way after reading the Town Hall Structure Advisory Committee's report but has

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been cautioned by Jenssen and Basler that townspeople might perceive him as trying for a "power grab" or to "control things" by making decisions without fellow select board members present. Weisz argued that because "Monterey does not have adequate cell service, it's easier for select board members to conduct business at town hall." He also stated that in his opinion, "an almost daily presence in town hall has been received positively," and it's been "the request of the public at large."

Jenssen understood but stated, "I'm opposed to having a select board member in town hall, as it looks like one person is doing policy, not three…administration appearance is dangerous." Weisz assured his fellow select board members that he "would never overreach that capacity" and cited examples where certain discussions would be better if discussed on the phone in town hall as well as times when it would be helpful to have administrative assistance available while on the phone.

All select board members agreed and recognized that the select board position is not based on time spent in town hall and that all decisions come through the meetings.

Range and Radar

On August 24, the board unanimously approved a new policy to receive weekly reports from the police chief regarding speed radar readings. The reports will contain information concerning where, and when the radar is run, and by whom,as well as the number of citations and/or warnings that are issued. The board hopes that by analyzing this data and finding patterns,

The Town, cont. on page 4

Steve Weisz

New treasurer, Sue Funk, and accountant, Paul Lisi Jr.

Treasurers and Accountants
Their Responsibilities

The roles of the treasurer and accountant are vital to the good functioning of our town. We now have a new treasurer and a new accountant. This is a good time to take a look at the basic responsibilities of these two positions. The following information came from Mass.gov/dor, and from the Massachusetts Collectors Treasurers Association annual school at UMass-Amherst.

—Editor

Town Treasurer

The treasurer is the town officer responsible for all monies that come into town accounts, and for all monies paid out of town accounts. This requires identifying all money due to the town, insuring the safe-keeping of all funds, and managing town monies to meet cash-flow needs. Establishing a cash-flow budget and meeting cash-flow needs, because of timing differences for receipts and payables, may require short-term borrowing and investing to keep expenses as low as possible.

The treasurer pays amounts due on bills as allowed by the town accountant. He or she manages all payroll needs, including paychecks, withholdings, and benefits, and maintains all payroll records, which can include supervising a payroll service.

The treasurer also negotiates with banks for services, negotiates all borrowings for bonds, and has custody of all town accounts and town funds, including stabilization, retirement, trust and investments, insurance policies, fidelity bonds, and deeds to town properties. This person maintains all tax title accounts and conducts sales of property.

She or he provides administrative officers, finance committees, and other parties with accurate financial information with which decisions may be made. This also requires year-end reports, statements, reconciliation of cash, schedules of bond payments, and reports of the status of funds.

Some Massachusetts towns formally or informally combine the roles of treasurer and tax collector to help streamline their functions.

Town Accountant

The town accountant maintains the budget for town expenses and reviews all proposed expenditures and bills payable to make sure that money is available in the appropriate appropriation accounts, and that goods or services billed for have been properly received or performed. The accountant prepares warrants for payment for signature by the select board and is also the custodian of all municipal contracts. The accountant reports on spending versus appropriations and notifies departments and the select board of potential overspending.

In addition, the town accountant is responsible for preparation of numerous reports throughout the year and at year's end for use by other fiscal officers. Some reports must be submitted to the state for review.

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The Town, cont. from page 3

they can help determine a solution for the traffic and speeding in town. By the way, the board would also like to reassure all that this is not micromanaging, but simply an attempt to acquire a range of information in order make more informed decisions for the safety of the town.

Also on the topic of range, and to respond to a question at the second-home owners' meeting in August, the board determined that the firing range on Hupi Road is indeed legal.

More Phone Lines for Town Hall

On August 24, Steve Weisz stated that there has been a request for extra phone lines in town. More specifically, two phone lines are requested for the police, two for the assessors, one for the clerk, and one additional for the administrative assistant's office for town business. There is a definite need for these eight lines, as currently, if someone wants to use a phone in the police department office, it ties up the lines for incoming (often emergency) calls. Weisz advocated that it "will increase town hall efficiency… and we definitely need to have an open line to the police." The board agreed to use the remaining funds of the Berkshire Housing Grant Fund, a solid $1,740.53, for the project. All lines will be channeled through the main computer system. Ken Basler agreed, stating "The amount of lines we can get for $1,700 is the amount we should get." A motion was made to upgrade phone service in town hall with emphasis on the police, all voted in favor.

Cellphone Service

Hume and Varsity Wireless

In mid-August, Varsity Wireless, a tower company, requested information on placing a cell tower on Hume New England's property. The company made a site visit on Wednesday, August 19, with Brad Rose, a Hume NE board member who flew in from California for the meeting. The site has a 2,000 foot perimeter which was approved in 2011, and which Steve Weisz has re-staked. If Hume NE agrees to lease the site, Varsity Wireless will immediately start the permitting process with the same engineers, location, and size as in 2011. AT&T, which did the original permitting work, has verbally agreed to allow Varsity Wireless to use their earlier work, and this cuts out $10,000 of work and substantial time.

Verizon, which is interested because of its Otis tower, will make its decision in February whether to place equipment on the new tower. Verizon would want to be at the top. AT&T could place its equipment in a lower location. Hume New England, represented by Rose, and Varsity Wireless are currently negotiating the contract and rates. Hume is looking for more profit than the previous contact, but Varsity Wireless does not want to pay more than Florida Tower, the company that held the previous lease.

"Hume wants to finalize terms of that agreement for the most amount of money that they can get. And I've offered my services to mediate this," explained Weisz. "Varsity is offering less based on one carrier on the tower, but we expect an additional carrier to be added on, and with that, additional money."

A PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) payment of $1,300 a year for the tower is likely.

No Dumping

Kenn Basler reported that the weekend before August 24, there was an illegal dumping at the transfer station. The trash and the video tapes are being reviewed by the police to catch the perpetrator. Basler suggested a sign regarding the cameras be hung outside the station and/or a policy be created to deter violators with appropriate fines.

Holidays mean holidays for all, even for the transfer station. The select board discovered over Labor Day weekend that in Massachusetts there are only certain types of work activities allowed on legal holidays—and the transfer station is not included in the list. Abiding by the law, the transfer station will no longer be open on national or legal holidays. This includes Columbus Day.

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"I suggested we could have an art gallery at the transfer station and people could dump their garbage right there in the 'gallery," said Steve with a smile. It turns out art galleries are allowed to be open for business on holidays.

Monterey School

On August 24, the board discussed the engineering report from 2014 and plans for the necessary work to be done to the Monterey School. Plans for the school include construction on the retaining wall, main room floor, bathroom floor, waterproofing, and an exterior drain. Ken Basler suggested that the board hire a contractor to generate estimates so that the Facilities Committee can make decisions in the upcoming weeks. Scott Jenssen offered to help develop the estimates.

The Monterey News *welcomes Jill Pajka as our new town reporter. Jill lives at Gould Farm and works as a residential advisor. She has a degree in English, a special interest in art, and already loves Monterey.*

—Editor

Parks Commission

Dam Boats and a Bench

Small Boats at the Dams

On June 24, U.S. Dam Safety consultant GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., inspected the Brewer Pond and Lake Garfield dams. It was brought to the attention of the director of operations and the parks commission chair that the storage of kayaks, canoes, and small boats in the area of the dams was in violation of dam safety because they kill grass, which in turn destabilizes the ground surrounding the dam. The inspection report called for the removal of all boats that are on or around the dam. If you are storing a boat at the dam, we ask that you please remove your boat immediately or the town will take action.

The parks commission is currently working on plans for proper public kayak and canoe storage at the dam as well as across from the boat ramp on Tyringham Road. At this time we are trying to iron out details and as soon as we do we will notify everyone as to how the storage system will work.

Tim Fistori Memorial Bench

Earlier this year, the parks commission was approached to see if the commission would allow for a memorial bench to be installed at the beach on Lake Garfield. After this request was unanimously approved, the project was brought to the select board, where it was also unanimously approved. Therefore, on September 19, a memorial bench was installed on the beach of Lake Garfield for Tim Fistori.

Tim was a Captain with the Suffolk County Sheriffs Department. He passed away suddenly at age 52 from heart failure on the beach at Lake Garfield while trout fishing with friends on April 29, 2013. Tim was an avid outdoorsman all his life and cherished the days he spent fishing and hunting in Monterey and Tyringham. The bench was installed by his friends as a memorial to Tim and a gift to the town of Monterey.

—Monterey Parks Commission

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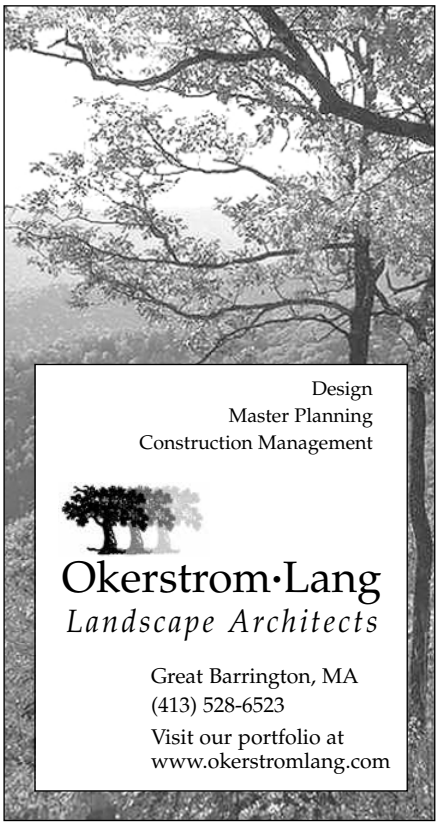

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Monterey Library News

On Halloween, Saturday, October 31, at 4:30 p.m. , Ed Popielarczyk will give a fun-filled magic show. Check out his website at edpop.com. The Monterey Parks Commission is co-sponsoring this with the library, many thanks to them. (trick-or-treat starts as soon as the show is over so come in costume) A guaranteed fun way to start trick or treat.

Electronic Resources

Ever since eBooks have been out the libraries have been a little behind the curve. Publisher issues, software and connectivity issues, device issues—nothing was easy in the beginning. Our automated sharing system, CWMARS, has been building a collection of eBooks, as well as downloadable audios and videos. To access this collection search for "CWMARS digital catalog." The collection has grown and there is even a special collection of children's items. You'll need to follow the directions and deal with Overdrive, the vendor which runs the software. Books are borrowed for two weeks. Over the years, as devices have become more standardized and the software easier to deal with, people have been taking advantage of this collection. One of the requirements of many of the eBook lending systems is that only one patron can take a book out at a time. Some collections allow unlimited access, but many of those books are older. The wait for new books was very long, though as the collection has grown it is getting better.

More recently, patrons are able to access the Boston Public Library's collection of downloadable materials. The Boston Public Library (BPL) receives funding from the state and is open to all who live, work, or own property in the state. In order to access this collection you'll need to get an eCard. Search for "Boston Public library ecard registration." Answer the questions and get your card. If you are ever in Boston, you can upgrade to a full BPL card, but the eCard works well from home, and you can access their collection and take things "out." This was a great addition to CWMARS.

This year the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Massachusetts Library System, unveiled their new digital collection that they have been working on for years. Like the BPL, everyone connected to Massachusetts is able to connect and borrow. Of course, their buying power for the collection is larger than any one of the individual libraries, and the staff dedicated to this project has been able to devote the time necessary to work out the many details. They decided to invest in three different systems to fill the different needs of the patrons.

The first is called Axis 360, where you will find the bestsellers. It is in some ways similar to Overdrive. You'll need a valid CWMARS card. It is a broad collection of materials selected by representatives from academic, public, and school libraries, and includes materials for all ages in fiction as well as nonfiction. You may borrow up to three books at a time for up to three weeks. It includes audiobooks, which you can listen to on mobile devices.

BiblioBoard Library is the second collection. It consists of public domain, licensed, and library-contributed content. There are primary sources, historical documents, and images. Unlimited use of materials mean you won't have to wait. Browse the collection and you'll find some very interesting things. There are collections that will interest you in history, comics and graphic collections, technical manuals, and many of the Dummies series, for example, *Computers for Dummies*. There are many self- and indie-published works in this collection.

The third collection is EBL. This module is mostly nonfiction, academically oriented titles. Unfortunately CWMARS hasn't quite figured out how we can access this material yet. Each of these collections has its own directions and requirements, and some have device restrictions.

In order to access all of the above downloadable materials, all you need to do is go to MontereyMassLibrary.org and click on Resources. You'll find links to the CWMARS catalog, databases, the list of recently purchased titles for the Monterey Library, and whatever else we can find to help you out. Our website is developing day-by-day, and as the world changes we'll do our best to keep up. We're fortunate to have a strong library system in this state, and we can benefit from resources that we never could have afforded on our own. The most important thing you need to do first is get the library card that gives access to all these materials. We hope to see you soon.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
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October at the Knox Gallery

Knox Gallery's current exhibit, *Aftermath*, featuring Mariam Stephan's black-and-white ink drawings, continues through October 10. Before you head over to our wonderful local Octoberfest (October 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center), be sure to see this beautiful exhibit!

These works are loosely based on Franz Kafka's short stories and are heavily influenced by the artist's study of Egyptian art and culture, nurtured during her time in Egypt on a Fulbright scholarship.

Stephan lives and works in North Carolina, where she teaches painting and drawing at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She exhibits regularly and has received many awards, including her Fulbright in 2011.

The Color Incorrect opens Friday, October 16, with a reception the next evening, Saturday, October 17, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Ilene Spiewak's paintings are built of layers of washes and bold color, creating subtle irregularities of composition on the canvas. She pushes the boundaries of this exploration to create tension and informed passion, breaching staid boundaries of painted images.

A painter, therapist, and educator who lives in West Stockbridge, the artist states that she makes images from "a near non-representational position, moving toward abstraction." She works on two or three canvases at a time "creating forms and shapes on the canvas that may be painted out or enhanced with bold lines and washes of strong color combinations."

Ilene Spiewak

Melancholy *by Ilene Spiewak*

Spiewak received her BA from Pennsylvania State University and her MA in Art Therapy from Hahnemann University Hospital, and has continued her studies through other colleges and programs. She is currently an MFA candidate at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts through a nonresident program.

Winter Community Exhibit at Knox Gallery

Our tradition at Knox Gallery is to sponsor an all-inclusive winter community exhibit, and the season is coming around. *4 Elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air* will open on Friday evening, December 4. We hope all artists and friends will consider this impetus for new work. We plan to, once again, assemble a diverse and stimulating reflection of our community and look forward to seeing what you discover.

We ask all participates to submit an "Intent to Enter" form by November 21. The form will be available in the library and on the town website by October 17. All instructions will be on the forms. One piece of two- or three-dimensional, ready-to-display work per artist will need to be hand-delivered to the library on November 30 or December 1. The exhibit will run until January 30.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library for supporting the Knox Gallery and to the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Council for the grants that underwrite our artists' talks.

Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knoxgallery.

452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Lake Garfield Study
Plant Investigation 2015

Water Resource Services, Inc. of Wilbraham, MA, conducted a survey of Lake Garfield. It features facts and figures about the setting and history of the lake and its watershed; maps to illustrate the lake and the specific survey results; and summaries of past studies of the lake, which looked at water quality, changes in rooted plant communities, protected species issues, and permitted management actions.

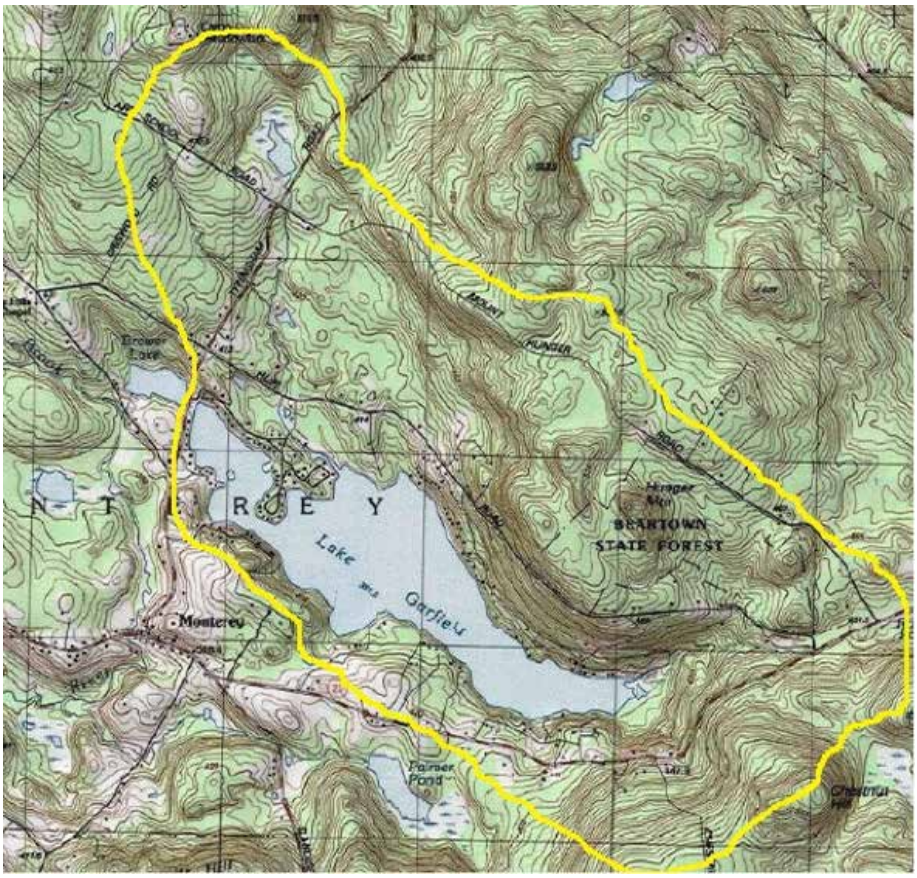
The survey goes on to describe conditions discovered during a survey conducted in 2014, which documented some Eurasian milfoil infestation, resulting in action by the Friends of Lake Garfield and the Town of Monterey to remove the milfoil from these areas.

This new survey extensively documented milfoil throughout areas of the lake, with detailed results as well as rules used to justify the cost estimations for removing it.

The study presents "Proposed Management Actions," which focus primarily on the use of herbicides to suppress the Eurasian milfoil. Alternative approaches are also listed with their various impacts.

If you would like to review the study, contact the town offices or the Friends of Lake Garfield. Hy Rosen can also respond to requests for pdf copies of the survey at rosenhy@gmail.com

—Editor



Water Resource Services, Inc.

Locus Map for Lake Garfield with Watershed Boundary *from "Lake Garfield Plant Investigation 2015," by Water Resource Services, Inc.*

Christopher Blair
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From the Tax Collector's Office

The fiscal year 2016 real estate and personal property second-quarter tax bills have been mailed and are due November 2, 2015. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (528-1443 x117).

Once again, for a minimal charge, you can pay online from your checking account for current real estate and personal property bills is available at montereyma.gov. Credit card payments are also accepted online for current bills. Please note that the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for this service.

Credit cards are now accepted for payment of any bill in the Tax Collector's office. The card must be swiped in the tax collector's office, so this service is not available online or over the phone. Again, a fee will be assessed to the taxpayer for credit card payment.

Questions regarding personal property, assessments, or exemptions should be directed to the Board of Assessors at (413) 528-1443 x115.

—Mari Enoch
Tax Collector

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Cultural Council Grant Applications

The Monterey Cultural Council announces the availability of state funds to support cultural events for our community. In general these are small grants to offset the costs of cultural activities, including any or all of the arts and exposition or exploration of the natural world. Typically, there are many more applicants than available dollars to support them. Still— we encourage you to apply because these activities, classes, nature walks, and other events enrich our life in Monterey. Our priorities for granting include support for activities that showcase local craftspeople and artists and associations, as well as offer a wide variety of activities for our townspeople.

Only the official state application form may be used to apply. The applications may be downloaded from the Massachusetts Cultural Council web site at mass-culture.org. Application forms are available at the library, general store, town hall and Roadside Cafe. Grant applications are due no later than October 15, verified by postmark. Completed applications can be mailed to Monterey Cultural Council, PO Box 282, Monterey, MA 01245.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us by email: fiona.deris@gmail.com, or drpatsalomon@aol.com

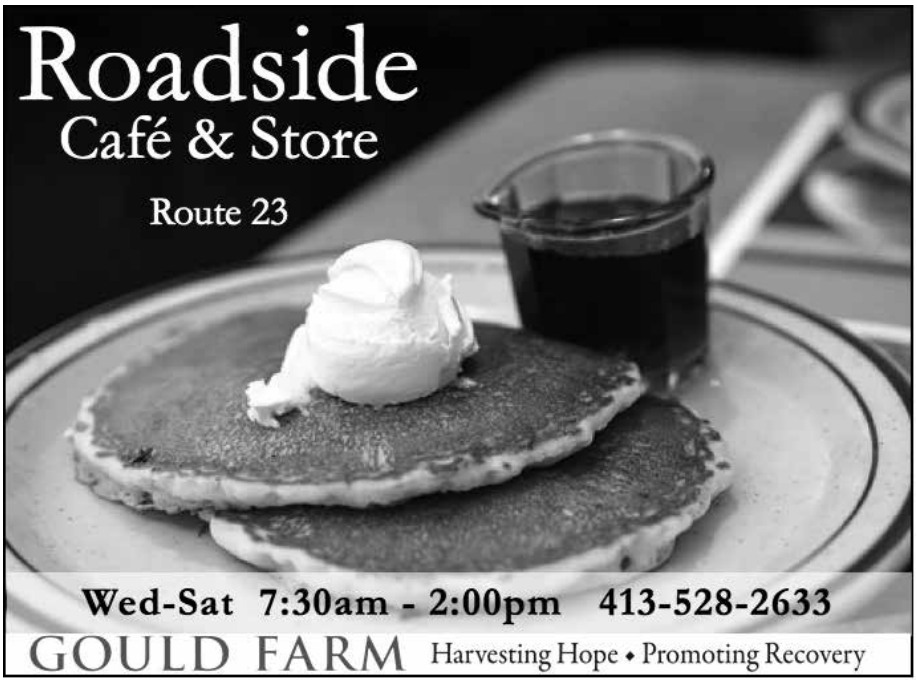
Mt. Everett School Campus
Roof and Boiler Project Update

Thanks to support from all five towns of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, the roof and boiler project at the Mount Everett-Sheffield campus is nearing completion. The boilers have arrived from Germany, and it is anticipated that they will be heating the building by the end of October. The finishing touches are being put on the roof, and the skylights will soon be finished— no more leaks!

The good news is that the whole project is coming in at about $2 million under projections, putting the total at around $6 million, barring any unexpected expense in the last days of the project. And the cost of the pellets to feed the biomass heating system is also coming in under projections, at around $218 per ton, delivered. The school committee and administration are very grateful for the way our towns worked together to secure funding from the state so our district did not have to go it alone to pay for these major capital expenses.

The school committee also voted to match funds for maintenance work at the Monterey School, so we anticipate making repairs to the bathroom and the back of the building while the program is suspended for the school year.

—Maria Rundle
SBRSD Representative



Monterey Council on Aging
October 3 Health Fair

Coming right up is the Health Fair on Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the fire house. There has been great cooperation from many providers of health services. Come meet with Community Health Programs, Elder Services of Berkshire County, Avada Hearing, Berkshire Functional Fitness chair massage, Fairview Hospital, Porchlight VNA, WIC program, United Cerebral Palsy with assistive technology devices for different disabilities and ages, Home Instead, Hospice Care, and the Monterey Fire and Police Departments. Refreshments will be served. Please join us on October 3.

By the time this is published the Erie Canal trip will be a memory. The bus is full, so we hope for good weather and great pictures.

—Kay Purcell

Guided Stargazing
Saturday, October 3

Join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy staff and Williams College astrophysics student, Sarah Stevenson on Saturday, October 3, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for an evening of hands-on learning for all ages (but especially geared toward young learners and their families). Begin the evening with an indoor educational session before going out to the wide open spaces of the Kellogg Conservation Center, 62 Undermountain Road (Route 41), in South Egremont, to observe the night sky.

Bring warm clothing, a camp chair or blanket to sit on, and a smile. The ATC staff will provide hot tea, hot chocolate, and healthy snacks. The event is free, but donations are welcome to support future programs at the Kellogg Center.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's mission is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail—ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come. To become a member, volunteer, or learn more, visit appalaciantrail.org.

Health Fair

Monterey Fire House
Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Check out your health
Learn valuable health information
Make contacts with area health care providers

Community Health Program, Fairview Hospital,
and the Monterey Fire company are some of the organizations
that will be represented.

refreshments will be served.
See the Council on Aging page at Mountereyma.gov

Sponsored by the Monterey Council on Aging.

October 4th at 9:30 am
Registration 8:00 - 9:00 am
Gould Road in Monterey, MA

Entry Fee: Adults $25 / Children under 13 $10
Free race shirt if you register by September 13th

Awards to first Male and Female in multiple age groups
Games, donuts, raffle prizes, and pumpkin painting!

Your support makes recovery real.

Run for Recovery 2015

Gould Farm is hosting its annual 5k: Running for Recovery on October 4 at 9:30 a.m. Gould Farm is located in Monterey and the 5k route runs right through the farm. There will be cider, donuts, treats, prizes, games, and more. All funds raised will go to support financial aid for Gould Farm residents, to make the "road to recovery" accessible to everyone living with a mental health challenge.

Gould Farm promotes recovery through meaningful work, community living, and clinical care. Its psychosocial rehabilitation program also provides transition services to support people as they move towards greater independence. Gould Farm is proud to have been part of the Berkshires for over one hundred years as both a working farm and a therapeutic community.

Check out Gould Farm on Facebook to register and find out more about the 5k on October 4.

Great Barrington Land Conservancy
RUN for the HILLS
10K • 5K • 1K
Sunday OCT 4

Great Barrington Land Conservancy's annual Run for the Hills event will be held Saturday, October 4, with check-in time between 8 and 9 a.m., starting at Bard College at Simon's Rock's Kilpatrick athletic center on Taconic Street in Great Barrington. For details, go to runforthehillsgb.org

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Housatonic Heritage Hikes
Saturday, October 3

Bob's Way
A BNRC Property
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Hike with Mike Leavitt of Berkshire Natural Resources Council and Christine Ward of Great Barrington Trails & Greenways to explore a moderate woodland trail steeped in history and rich in natural resources. Hike by charcoal hearths, cellar holes, an overlook, and a beaver pond. Learn about the historic Knox trail. 2.5 miles over 2.5 hours. To register: info@gbtrails.org or call 528-2810 x 10.

From Monterey center, drive east on Route 23 for 2.5 miles to the parking area on the south side, just past Mount Hunger Road and just before the Otis town line.

Bidwell House Museum
Centuries of Stone Walls Walk
2 to 4 p.m.
On Saturday, October 3, at 2 p.m., the Bidwell House Museum is offering a guided walk to explore the four miles of stone walls built by settlers on museum lands. Bidwell House Museum president Rob Hoogs will lead the group on old roadways, visualizing the landscape that resulted from settlement and farming activities in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The walk will pass the site of the first meeting house and cellar holes of long-ago homesteads.

Participants will meet at the Bidwell House Museum at 2 p.m. Please dress for the weather and wear hiking boots or sturdy footwear, as terrain is uneven in places. Bring a drink and a snack. The walk is about two miles and will probably take about two hours. Please note, the walk does not include a tour of the house interior. House tours are offered on the hour between 11 and 4, with the last tour beginning at 3 p.m. The walk is presented in cooperation with Housatonic Heritage. For updates and details, please check BidwellHouseMuseum.org. Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey, MA, 10 a.m. This event is free.

There are many other walks being led in the region on October 3 and 4. To learn more, go to Heritage-Hikes.org.

Construct WALK 2015
Emergency Services Fundraiser

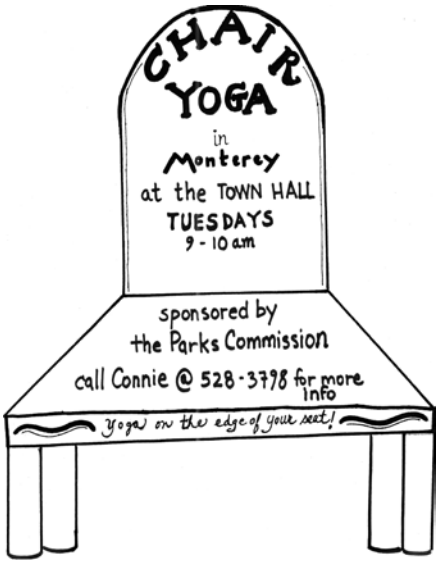
Join hundreds of others on October 18 to raise money for Construct's Emergency Services Fund. Every penny collected goes towards the fund, which helps families in a crisis manage vital needs—filling an oil tank, a week's worth of groceries, a rent payment, or a car repair so they can get to work.

You can help by walking, or by being a "virtual walker" and sponsoring others.

Call to register at 528-1985, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or go to constructinc.org for other ways to be included.

Sign in at Ski Butternut at 12:30. The walk begins at 1 p.m. The walk leaves from Ski Butternut and goes to the Great Barrington fairground on South Main Street for a total distance of four miles.

Construct's WALK 2015 is sponsored by Ed Herrington building supplies, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Salisbury Bank, Kimball Fuel, and McCormick, Murtagh & Marcus law office.



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At last year's Octoberfest, theWilson-McLaughlin house was bare bones. In the past year the insulated wall panels were installed, windows and casings added, foundation for the ramp and front entry poured, permanent electrical service installed, rough plumbing and wiring in place, soffits and gutters up, steel bulkhead door installed. Come and see the changes for yourself—but keep in mind the remaining needs for the front entry, interior finish, kitchen work area, bathroom, flooring, and more.

Octoberfest is Coming
Beer-Brats-Music-Crafts-& More

Wonderful moments happen when Monterey neighbors come together for Octoberfest, this year to be held October 10, from noon to 4 p.m., on the grounds of the Monterey Community Center (MCC). It's a true small-town celebration with local food, drink, music, and smiling faces—some of them gleefully rolling pumpkins, some posing in the photo booth or listening to live music, and some getting beautifully painted faces.

The event is sponsored by Karen Allen Fiber Arts, Prairie Whale, Berkshire Functional Fitness, Berkshire Property Agents, and John B. Hull.

Enjoy locally sourced, world-class food, beer, music, crafts, and activities for all ages and interests. Come by and tour the grounds, see progress on the MCC, view architect's renderings of what's to come, meet neighbors, and learn how you can use the center.

Here's a sampling of what you'll find at Octoberfest:

Food and Drink
- Prairie Whale restaurant wood-fired bratwurst
- Wandering Star Brewery microbrews
- BerkshireCo-op donated organic hot dogs
- Monterey General Store desserts
- Scrumptious homemade, home-town baked goods and Rawson Brook pepper rolls.
- Food and drinks are available with purchase of tickets at the door (cash only).

Music

Some of Monterey's top talent, including
- Vikki True
- Peter Poirier
- Dave Dempsey
- Mike Scarpo

Activities
- Famous Pumpkin roll contest
- Craft and food table
- Photo Booth
- Community Center Tour … and more

If you'd like to help organize activities, greet visitors, or participate in any way, contact Mary Makuc marymakuc@gmail.com or Cara Carroll carroll.cara@gmail.com, or go online and pick a favorite volunteer activity at http://vols.pt/gkB9vs.

What better way to celebrate together before the cold weather sets in? Hope to see you there, at the corner of Route 23 and New Marlboro Road.

For more information, go to ccmonterey.org

— Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House

Dennis J. Downing
Attorney at Law

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Opening Celebration
Gige O'Connell Transition House

On October 17, Gould Farm will celebrate the opening of our new transition house in Monterey, and you're invited. Gould Farm is a therapeutic community that promotes recovery for people living with mental health and related challenges through meaningful work, community living, and clinical care. For over one hundred years, Gould Farm has been a working farm and healing community here in Monterey. And our new transition program is likely a house that you're already familiar with, either from driving by it on your way to Gould Farm or the transfer station, or perhaps from knowing the previous owner—Georgiana "Gige" O'Connell. It is located on Curtis Road, right in the midst of hay fields and adjacent to Gould Farm's seven-hundred-acre property.

For years, Gige generously let Gould Farm use her pasture to graze our dairy cows, and she has been a valued member of our board of directors for years. Gige and her husband moved into the house fifty-four years ago, and it is where they raised their six daughters while Gige taught at the Monterey School. She recently moved to Rhode Island to be closer to her family, and Gould Farm acquired the house and property.

In honor of Gige, we're naming the new transition house the O'Connell House. It will serve our guests who are ready to take the next steps in their recovery journey and to help them connect with work and volunteer opportunities in the wider community. Gould Farm also has a transition house in the Boston area where former residents of the farm live and work towards greater independence. With the opening of the O'Connell House, Gould Farm will create opportunities for guests to transition locally and pursue their interests and passions in a rural setting.

Many individuals have donated to the new program to help create a warm and welcoming home for transitioning guests. We have received many generous gifts of furniture but still have some items that we need, including armoires, desks, couches, area rugs, hallway rugs, reading chairs, bookshelves, table and floor lamps, new full beds, newer light fixtures, prints and paintings, a large food prep table, indoor plants, and a kitchen island. If you are able to contribute, please make a donation online or contact me at Gould Farm for furniture pick-up.

We would like to invite members of the Monterey community to join us at the O'Connell house for the official ribbon cutting on October 17 at 5 p.m. We'll celebrate with Harvest Barn bread, farm cheese, and fresh farm cider. We are deeply grateful for the many hands that came together to make this house a home. Please come join us!

—Michael MacDonald
Gould Farm Program Coordinator

Harvest Barn Bakery
***at* Gould Farm**

Sat & Sun 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(Self-Serve Wed - Fri 9:00 - 3:00)

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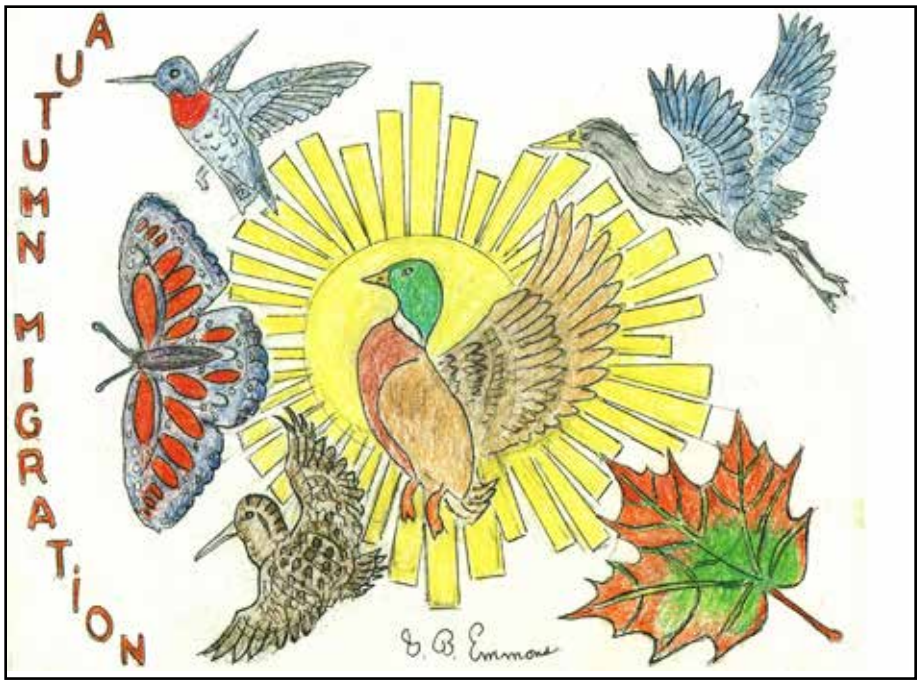
Autumn Migration



Lake Garfield's drawdown begins again on October 15, ending the waterfront summer season for some of us, but already, by September 21, the fall equinox, the autumnal migration of hummingbirds and butterflies was in motion. Now a sentimental song about the end of summer written half a century ago comes to mind: "The days grow short when you reach September," and with each passing day of autumn exodus from our gardens, the haunting melody lingers.

We have begun to sleep under a blanket as the nights grow colder, while silently over our heads the phenomena of migration weave a network of routes over land and water, using the position of the sun, stars, and the Earth's magnetic field for navigation. Bonner McAllester who calls me her co-writer for nature in the *Monterey News* (and I admit to walking in her literary shadow) ,tells me birds have been been actively feeding and storing up energy in anticipation of flying in overdrive at high altitudes for thousands of miles. We know that mammals similarly fatten up before the winter months.

A successful migratory departure and return in a full cycle, often to the same nesting site, is a clockwise Capistrano-type proof-of-the-pudding to perpetuate the species.

How do they do it? One explanation might be that the young migrate with experienced adults who have made the journey before, but remarkably, in some species, the juveniles depart well ahead of the adults. Migration for the monarch butterfly is a round trip to a particular mountain in Mexico. The journey cannot be completed by a single individual or generation. Somehow the instinctive sense of direction, as in a relay race, must be experienced and passed like a baton from one generation to the next.

The Homing Pigeon's ability to navigate without a compass may give us a clue because they have a tiny organ containing crystals of magnetite that sense the Earth's magnetic fields and point them home after a long, twisting, and blindfolded journey. This interacts with an internal chronometer in their brain, a process called a circadian rhythm. This, combined with visual references such as landmarks and the position of the sun and, as recently discovered, sensitivity to extremely low-frequency sounds, may combine to help them determine their position.

Along the way, availability of food and resting places may also define both the direction and distance of flights for stopovers. For example, drawing down Lake Garfield attracts moving waterfowl by exposing areas for bottom feeding until ice sends them further south. Meantime in nearby fields and meadows, the migratory Woodcock, a ground-nesting bird that depends on probing the ground with its long bill for worms, stays one jump ahead of the approaching frost line and begins its intermittent flights to Louisiana using moon reflections along the coastline of the Atlantic flyway. At Cape May, NJ, they are seen bunching up like the monarch butterflies, waiting for a favorable wind to carry them across Delaware Bay.

As the Earth's rotation slowly turns the face of the northern hemisphere away from the sun, the cold stops the flow of chlorophyll to leaves on the trees until the high cheekbones of our native mountains are streaked with deciduous war paint. Their defoliated features also change expression from ethereal beauty to primitive ritual as bow hunters take to tree stands for autumn harvest. Falling leaves, like the wings of migration, are already flying past our windows to witness the passing of another planetary cycle.

—George B. Emmons

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Planet of the Phones

Why? asked the girl in the polka-dot-dress
as she squirmed and she wiggled, made quite a mess.

Her mother stared on at the phone in her hand,
thumbs moving faster than wind in dry sand.

No matter the racket, of siren or roar
she gazed at the screen, though her daughter was four.

It was just bound to happen, in a matter of time
Mother zoomed off, with a bleep and a chime-

here, to a Planet where phones had to be heeded
they multiplied fast, then they reseeded.

Mother joined thousands and ate only beans
and only the kind that they saw on the screens.

Her daughter was sad, and cried in the night
then she woke with the thought, *I will fly on a kite!*

She gathered a bag with things of the Earth
the puppies and roses, she loved from her birth.

The kite took her high, with a bag on her shoulder
she muscled great strength and couldn't be bolder.

She burst loose on the Planet, puppies galore
romping and kicking, so much to adore.

Then, she ran to each face with a rose in her grip-
taping quite lightly, to their nose, just the tip.

The phones battled back with a flashier style
I know I can stop them, she thought with a smile.

Back to Earth, she called out for rainbows and birds
oceans and sunsets and beautiful words-

stuffing the bag with the sweat of her brow
there was just enough space for a tiny meow.

With the power of mountains and the flash of the sky
she zipped to the Planet, and told the phones, *Bye!*

Unleashing her stash, phones cackled and shrieked
she grabbed hold of her mother, hugged close to her cheek.

As the Planet was conquered with everything Real,
her mother looked out and started to feel-

she kissed her girl, in the polka-dot-dress-
sensing puppies and roses, this warmth in her chest.

When phones grew cold, from fingers they slid
then hands were set free, to hold with their kid.

—Melissa Hamilton

McLaughlin-Wilson Fund
2015 Scholarship Awards

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has released the names of Monterey students who have been awarded educational scholarships. This scholarship was established by Edith Wilson in memory of her life partner, Marjorie McLaughlin, to reward Monterey students who pursue educational opportunities beyond high school. A local board, as stipulated in the fund's bylaws, makes the awards. This year's awards total $67,000.

Applicants,who must have been residents of Monterey during their last two years of high school, must graduate in good standing from high school, perform community service on a regular basis, and demonstrate effort and ambition to achieve his/her academic and life goals. The next round of applications is due April 1, 2016.

First Year awards

- James Allentuck, The College of Wooster, Ohio
- Molly Amstead, Berkshire Community College
- Cassandra Case, Wellesley College
- Katrina Fitzpatrick, Westfield State University
- Joseph Makuc, Ursinus College

Renewals

- Kelsey Alcantara, Salem State University
- Lauren Andrus, Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Eloisa Dean, Susquehanna University
- Laura Dinan, Undecided
- Jason Duryea, Paul Smiths College
- Jacob Edelman, Brandeis University
- Gabriella Makuc, Lawrence University
- Ezra Marcus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Bruce McAlister, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Sheridan McAlister, Houghton College
- Judah Piepho, Georgetown University
- Emily Shaw, Bank Street College of Education
- Leah Weisgal, Westminster College

For over 27 years, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has built stronger communities and helped donors make a difference through charitable giving in northwest Litchfield County, CT; Berkshire County, MA; and Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County, NY. Each year, the foundation distributes over $8 million through grants and scholarships to nonprofits and individuals in the arts and education, health and human services, and environmental protection. Berkshire Taconic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity. You can make a difference. We can help.

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in cooperation with Chesterwood
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Berkshire Botanical Garden
81st Annual Harvest Festival

The Berkshire Botanical Garden's 81st annual Harvest Festival takes place on Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11, in Stockbridge. Over its 81-year run, the Harvest Festival, a fundraiser for the garden's educational programs, has become Berkshire County's most beloved fall tradition. This year, the garden is collaborating with Chesterwood, the home of sculptor Daniel Chester French, with shuttle buses running between the two sites. Parking at Chesterwood is ideally sited for festival visitors coming to the event from regions south of the garden.

Join in the fun and celebrate autumn with popular family activities, continuous live entertainment, more than one hundred food and craft vendors, a farmers' market, a silent auction, a giant tag sale, and a spectacular plant and bulb sale, as well as a haunted house. Garden and Chesterwood parking is free.

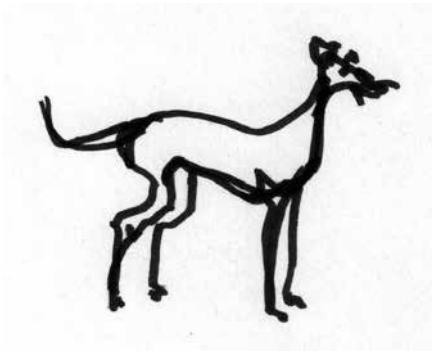
Adult admission is $5, children under 12 are free. The event runs both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pooch Parade
October 10

Join our campaign for a Monterey "Pooches Place," a healthy place for dogs and for people. Monterey dogs and their owners need a dog park for exercise and socialization. A location in the town's center to meet and greet and where our pets can play together safely is ideal. Our select board has shown some interest in this and even identified potential sites. But like any new town project this requires citizen interest and support.

We invite you and all dog lovers to parade with our dogs up Main Street on Octoberfest Day, Saturday, October 10. We'll meet and park at the town hall and begin our parade at 1:30 p.m. We'll walk to the grounds of the Monterey Community Center, and Octoberfest, out to New Marlboro Road, and back to Main Street. Please RSVP by getting in touch with me. (drpatsalomon@aol.com)

—Pat Salomon



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Steve Graves

Monterey softball attracted a record crowd of players to the annual end-of-summer Labor Day weekend game at Greene Park. Local regulars plus second-home owners and guests played a nine-inning game under perfectly sunny 75-degree skies. The informal, pick-up softball season continues with games through October on Sundays at 10:30.

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Steve Graves

The 2015 Monterey summer basketball season was a slam dunk with a record number of players trying out Monterey's new Jamie's Court at Greene Park. The informal, Sunday morning pick-up games brought together local athletes spanning five decades.

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

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From the Meetinghouse

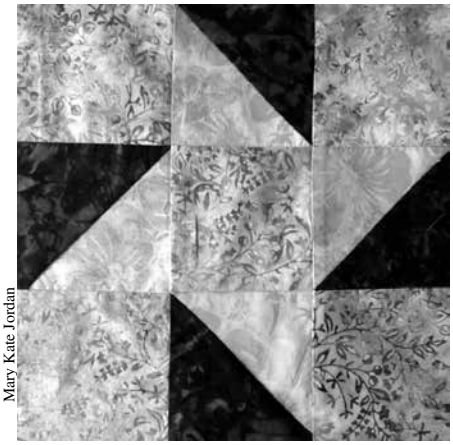
Go Set a Watchman

For the first time in this quilt-block series of articles, I haven't chosen the block and then let the image lead me into the story. Instead, I'm writing this soon after I finished reading the audio version of Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*. What stays in my awareness is a series of questions, and, while not an answer, perhaps a step toward resolution.

How different might the civil rights movement have been if Lee's editors hadn't seen the raw talent underlying the sometimes ponderous, sometimes awkward prose in this first novel? What if they hadn't helped her hone her skills to produce the prequel we know so well? What if friends of Truman Capote hadn't financially supported the writer while she wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird*? What if *Go Set a Watchman* had been published when Harper Lee first submitted it? Then I arrive at a more interesting angle.

It really does take a village to raise up almost anything.

As I listened, I wondered how different my own response to the civil rights movement might have been with a more clear sense of Southern white perspective on (yet another example of) arrogant Northern aggression. Perhaps I'd have been more explosive. Or, conversely, I might have been more skillful. Less righteous, perhaps. That's a good place to start to any conversation, especially a conversation that ventures as close to the bone marrow as *Go Set a Watchman* does in its final pages.



Mary Kate Jordan

This quilt block pattern is traditionally called Friendship Star. *The concept sounds simplistic in the context of the article. But, as anyone with long-term friends already knows, it's also the best way to engage in difficult conversation, or even start to heal a country.*

Now, after the novel, what also stays in my awareness is the integrity of a people whose ways have been foreign to me, and the integrity of my own, and the civil rights leaders' intentions. How youthful my simplistic version of reality was at that time! And, most of all, through many maturations and onion-peeling configurations, I'm now aware of how hidden seeds of the way I conceived reality at that time lived unnoticed in my other-than-conscious mind all the way through listening to the first chapters of *Go Set a Watchman.*

Those of you who've attended the Memorial Day gatherings at Veteran's Park may have heard me refer to the idea that we're still living in "the acoustic shadows of the Civil War." To me, the phrase means we're still dealing with the unfinished business of that war, a multi-layered business swaddled in protective blankets made of both lace and rags. Just as Davis and Lee, Lincoln and Grant had to deal with what the Founding Fathers didn't do regarding the issue of slavery when our country was founded, we still have work to do. We still have issues that divide family member against passionate family member while we argue about who has custody of the crying baby.

Go set yourself a task. Go read the book.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Transfer Station
Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

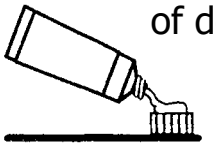
Aftermath
Drawings by Mariam Stephan
August 14 - October 10

KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library
Talks sponsored by Massachusetts & Monterey Cultural Councils

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:
413-528-5850
www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

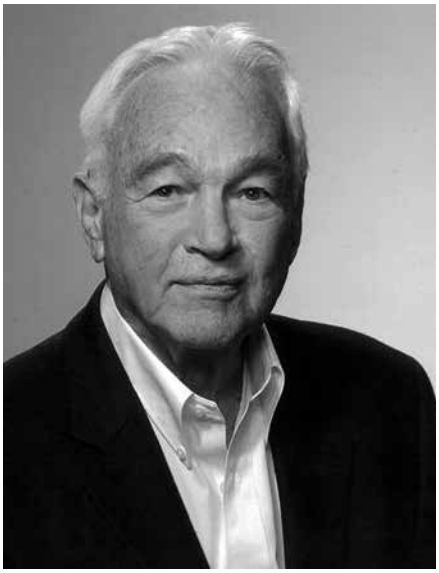
In Remembrance
William Iles Brockman

William Iles Brockman, founder of Brockman Real Estate, was born January 15, 1932, in Columbia, SC and died on Thursday evening, August 27, in Monterey. Bill passed peacefully in his sleep at his home called "Fiddletop" on Wellman Road, (see page 27) which he shared with his spouse and best friend, Jack Jefferson, who left the party almost eleven years ago to the day that Bill joined him.

Bill grew up in South Carolina, the son of Washington Clark Brockman and Hazel Carver Iles Brockman. He earned degrees from both the University of South Carolina and the University of Colorado. He served his country during the Korean War with the United States Air Force in Norfolk, England. After the war he taught English and history in northern Alaska, and then biked and hitchhiked through Japan and the Near East. He later worked in fundraising, including serving as the vice president of deferred giving at the American University of Beirut. Bill also worked in nonprofits in New York City, primarily with two of Bill and Jack's best friends, John and Betty Lee "Mac" Carlson.

It was the Carlsons who introduced Jack and Bill to Monterey, and to the Berkshires. They moved to the Berkshires first as part-time residents, buying a home on Fairview Road. In 1976 they made the move to full-time residents.

"We loved it but I had to work, had to get a job," Bill related. "I talked to a number of people, and the suggestion that made the most sense was real estate. Somebody suggested I go into politics… shows how well they knew me." After a year in Litchfield County with Robinson



Leech, Bill founded William Brockman Real Estate. As the business began to grow and prosper, Jack joined him full time.

Bill grew up in a small town and he really loved life in the country, but he also loved the proximity of New York and Boston. "A slower-paced way of life, the farms, the beauty of the place," he once said, "yet our work, and a key to our success, is that this is not a 'sometime job' but a commitment to being available when somebody wants to speak with you." Bill lived up to that commitment, never taking a single vacation with Jack: "because we didn't need to, we lived in the Berkshires." Their getaway was a monthly trip to the Upper East Side of New York for haircuts, shopping, and lunch, but back by 5 o'clock for a cocktail on the screened porch. Bill and Jack maintained long-lasting relationships with loyal clients,who became friends.

Life was not easy for Bill after Jack's sudden and unexpected passing. After an extended hospital stay in 2008, Bill retired, made Chapin Fish, the managing partner (he had been serving as managing broker since 2006,) and travelled in the South during the winters.

Work in real estate and life in the Berkshires were completely intertwined for Bill and Jack, including their dedication and commitment to the Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road in Monterey. They were good friends with Jack Hargis and David Brush, the original residents and restorers of the Bidwell House. As founding trustees, Bill and Jack worked hard to found the museum with people close to them and do whatever they could to ensure the future well-being of this beautiful property as a center for education and activities, a window into what life was truly like in the wilderness of colonial America. In 2013 Bill was honored as a Founding Trustee of the Bidwell House Museum.

Bill is survived by his nephews and nieces: Clark Brockman, Kristi Brockman, Russell Brockman, Jeannie Brockman Anderson, and Judith Brockman Gilmore. Anybody who knew Bill and Jack will remember their keen sense of humor, great intellect, and immeasurable charm. Bill had a razor sharp wit and was a devoted partner to Jack. They were both gentlemen who lived and worked with the strongest sense of generosity, decency, and fairness, and who genuinely cared about those in their lives. May it bring them comfort to know their legacy will continue. At Bill's request there will be no funeral, and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bill Brockman and Jack Jefferson Memorial Fund at the Bidwell House Museum in Monterey. A memorial service for Bill was held in September.

—Chapin Fish

ॐ

September 2015 Contributors

What better way to keep track of town news and events? Thanks for helping us help the town.

Linda Skipper & Jim Singelis
Alyssa Gelbard
Eve LaBelle
Ed & Joan Schur
Jesse & Liz Goodman

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Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

In Remembrance
Christine Fliesler

Christine Fliesler, part-time resident of 4 Gould Road since 1979, passed away August 9 in Marlborough, MA. Christine was a music therapist at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and sang in the Cecilia Chorus for many years. Born Krystyna Raber in 1932 in Krakow, Poland, she lived in Vienna, Austria, until age 6, when she became a refugee from the Holocaust and emigrated to the United States with her parents and brother. She then lived in Borough Park, Brooklyn, and later in Washington Heights, attending Music & Art High School, Queens College and, in her 40's, Graduate School at NYU. She married Alan Fliesler in 1955 and they settled in Woodside, Queens, several years later. Christine passed away peacefully in her sleep, under hospice care, and is survived by her daughters Vicki, Nancy, and Marni, son-in-law Henry Schwan, and granddaughter Martine Schwan.

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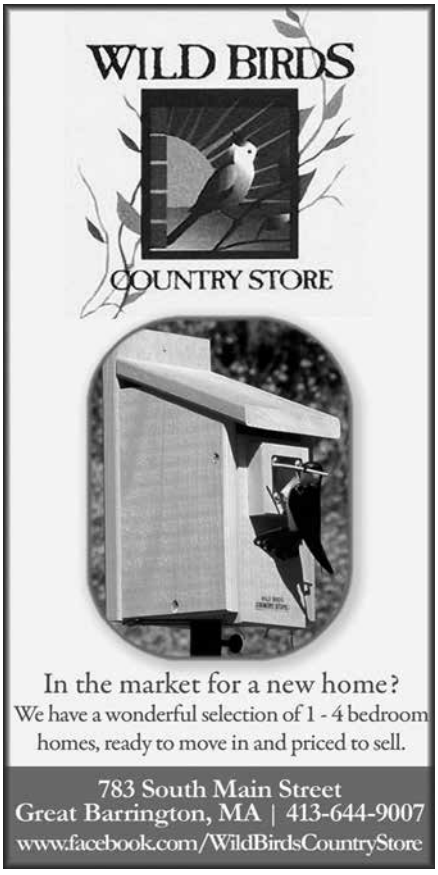
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Flu Clinic
October 8

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association will be at town hall on Thursday, October 8, from 2 to 3 p.m., administering flu shots. No appointment necessary. The clinic is open to adults over the age of 18. Bring Medicare and Mass Health cards. Fee is $25 for non-Medicare/Mass Health holders. Please wear short sleeves.

Blessing of the Animals
Open to All Creatures

We of the church will be having a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, November 1, at 10 a.m. This will be in lieu of normal Sunday service, and will be held on the library lawn. All creatures are welcome regardless of creed, color, or any other categorical distinction.

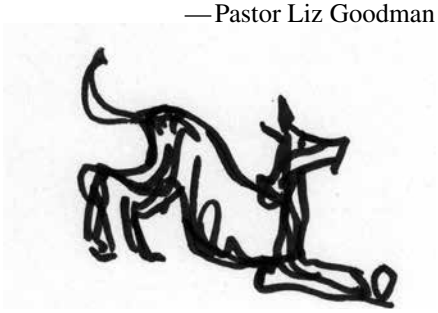
The blessing is not a specifically Christian ceremony as we will do it. Instead, it will give us time together to recognize the beauty and wonder to be found in every particularity of God's beloved creation. So, any creature desiring blessing in that spirit—either on behalf of yourself or on behalf of some animal(s) in your care—is encouraged to come.

This service is usually held on the first Sunday of October, which is the feast day for St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of animals, both wild and domestic. But, for various reasons, we're holding our service a month later.

We thank the library board in advance for allowing us to use the lawn, and we ask only that whomever joins us does so with safeguards in place as needed (leashes, crates, etc.) so all truly will feel welcome. We anticipate barking and maybe some hissing, just no biting. Clucking is most welcome, but pecking is another matter.

Hope to see you there!

—Pastor Liz Goodman



Community Potluck Oct. 21
Sandisfield Pipeline Expansion

What a glorious summer we have had. It is time for the potluck season to begin, and that means fall is here. The controversy over the planned Kinder Morgan [Tennessee Gas Company] pipeline expansion has not gone away; we are awaiting a ruling from FERC [the Federal Energy Regulation Commission]. As stated in the August issue of the *Monterey News,* "Despite the town of Sandisfield having unanimously voted against permitting the pipeline extension, Kinder Morgan has persevered." For the first potluck of the year, we have Jean Atwater-Williams from S.T.O.P. (Sandisfield Taxpayers Opposing the Pipeline) to inform us of the state of the project, what has been done, and what can be done to work against this planned extension of the existing pipeline. To quote from a letter by Thelma Esteves to the editor in the August *Monterey News*, "These abominations will be in the ground for decades and long after the demand for fossil fuels inevitably declines."

Jean Atwater-Williams lives in Sandisfield and became an "accidental activist" in 2013 when Kinder Morgan's Tennessee Gas Company announced plans to expand the existing pipeline corridor that runs through the historic property on which she and her husband live.

The first Monterey Community Potluck Dinner of the season will be held on Wednesday, October 21, at 6 p.m., at the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

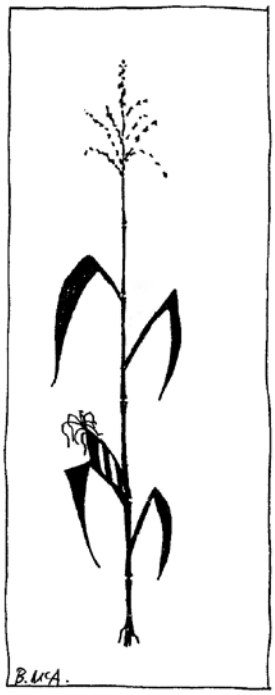
BERC
BERKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

- Environmental Permits
- Lake, Pond, and Fisheries Management
- Invasive Plant Management

Thomas Coote, Director: 413-644-4509
tcoote@simons-rock.edu

Corn Shucks Up a Tree

Last year at this time, the sky was falling, especially under the red oaks. We had what is called a "mast year," a big crop of nuts. *Mast* is an old word and was used back in the day when farmers were glad to set their pigs out roaming in the woods to pick up the harvest of acorns, hickory nuts, beech nuts, or anything else pigs would like. We still use the word. Scientists in California have made studies of "masting" in the many kinds of oaks there, with a special interest in wide-ranging synchronicity of mast years. Over hundreds and even thousands of miles, millions of trees will have a bumper crop of acorns in a given year and then hardly anything the next year, or the next several years. Out in the woods counting acorns, taking notes on rainfall and temperature and any other factors they can think of, the tree scientists still consider masting synchronicity to be a mystery. It may correlate with the weather, but sometimes weather is not consistent over these long distances, and the nuts still come pelting down.



Last fall the acorns were so thick on the ground here it was like walking on marbles. This was a boom time for squirrels, deer, wild turkeys, and many another local creatures getting ready for winter. Some collect acorns and stash them, some just eat as many as possible and put on weight. Some are getting ready for a migration, others have to make it through the cold days right here in Monterey. For all of us, this is harvest time.

We grow corn for storage. As it ripens on the plants, I look every morning for any sign of raccoons visiting. Some years they come, others they don't, and I do not think it has anything to do with the weather. It could be our big barking alarm dog, or it could just be an off-year for raccoons. When I see a corn plant broken down and an ear stripped and nibbled, I get out the short stakes with insulators and wire and hook up a three-level electric fence, with wires at four-inch intervals. Any raccoon headed for the corn restaurant will put a paw or a nose on one of those wires and decide to go somewhere else.

This year a lot of corn blew over, so I staked it up. Another storm, more plants down. Then something on the ground discovered the easy-to-reach ears and began to nibble, but it didn't seem like raccoons. There were little nibblings in the winter squash patch. and I was checking incisor width, wondering if it could be chipmunks. We've always seen them around here, dashing out of the chicken house with cheekpouches full of grain, scrounging under the bird feeder.

Pretty soon the sunflowers were tilting, snapping, leaves breaking off as they became highways up to the big heads of seeds. These are sturdy sunflowers and should hold a chipmunk without keeling over. Finally I began to see corn cobs and shucks pretty far from the patch. One day there were butternut shells on the chopping block by the compost crib, and the next day there was half a corn cob there. I was looking up in the nut tree to see if there were still any nuts to come down, and there, like tinsel in a Christmas tree, I saw long pale streamers. These were corn shucks, twenty feet off the ground. The nuts had all been down and gone for a week, and now the squirrel was taking corn up there for picnicking, safe from dog interruptions.

Last year squirrels left our corn alone. With so many acorns all through the woods, and the trees right there for a quick getaway, squirrels did well. This year, I think there are hungry animals in the woods, ready to risk a raid on the garden. They'll have a lean winter and won't produce so many offspring. Then in a few years we'll have mast in the woods again with the trees dropping lots more nuts than the animals can eat. Our corn patch will feed us instead of the squirrels.

We can afford to be philosophical about the corn situation because the truth is we have more food than we need. Onions, for example, are huge this year. We also have dry beans galore and brassicas of every kind. I chopped thirty pounds of cabbage into a crock and can do this several more times if I think I can eat that much sauerkraut. Besides all this we are like everyone else around here in that we never saw so many apples. This is a mast year for them, and I can see by the incisor marks that the squirrels are taking a break from corn now and then to eat apples, just like me and the dog. The dog is stashing a few apples for another time. Some he leaves by the front door, without a real plan, but others he carries one at a time to soft places in the garden, easy for digging and then nosing the dirt over. I'm sure some good will come of this.

I'll plant corn next year and we'll see what happens, what the weather brings, what falls from the sky and from the trees. Meanwhile, those corn shucks are still waving in the breeze in the butternut tree, telling a story to any tree scientist or detective who cares to draw conclusions. We have never a dull moment and plenty of applesauce.

—Bonner McAllester

Octoberfest Is Coming!
Saturday, Oct.10, Noon to 4

Monterey General Store
Grist for the Rumor Mill

After three years of seven-day work weeks, and closing only for Christmas and Thanksgiving Day, we at the Monterey General Store (MGS) decided that we would close for the week immediately following Labor Day this year. (It's been reported that even God rested on the seventh day!) This is a common practice among Berkshire businesses, and though we had remained open through this lull for our first couple of years, the financial records supported the theory that it's an ideal week to close. We told this to our customers and hung a sign on our door announcing precisely when we would be gone and when we would be returning. We then spent a delightful week at rest, recharging our energy reserves and gathering our thoughts and plans for what will unfold in the months ahead.

Returning to town, refreshed and ready to get back to work, it was a shock to learn of rumors circling about the "closure" of the store. Gossip proliferates quickly in any town and, with the store in the middle of this one, I guess the rumors were too seductive not to spread. But rumors can be hurtful and damaging, especially when completely untrue. So, I am writing this to set the record straight about some of these rumors.

- The MGS just finished out its third year and, so far, thanks to all of you, it has been a very healthy one. TRUE
- The MGS is for sale. FALSE (If you want to buy a general store, you're going to have to pay dearly for the one on the market in Mill River.)
- The MGS is closing permanently. FALSE (We're just starting to hit our stride.)
- The Monterey General Store is a stable, reliable resource for the beautiful Monterey community. TRUE

It has been such a pleasure to get to know so many wonderful people through the store.

All of the hearsay illustrates, in the end, just how much people in Monterey care about the store. We are so thankful for your continued support, patronage, and friendships.

The more you support our efforts, the more we can broaden our offerings. Then everybody benefits. Hope to see you soon at the Monterey General Store!

—Scott Edward Cole, Proprietor

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates
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Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
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Driveway Design & Permitting
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Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

441 Main Road
P.O. Box 61
Monterey, MA 01245
413-429-4888
berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

TKG The Kinderhook Group

Christine Martin
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413-717-7217
fax
413-895-2444
email:
Cmartin@tkgre.com
office:
10 Elm St., Stockbridge

Wildlife Report,
Mid-August to Mid-September

George Emmons sent in a photo of a fisher, taken at night by Bill Enlund's wildlife camera on Beartown Mountain Road. Bill uses corn for bait and has had several visitors there. Fishers are mainly carnivorous, but they will eat nuts and berries as well as this corn.

In a garden right by his house Bob Cutick discovered a milk snake quietly curled up, hoping to be invisible. Milk snakes are good neighbors but are sometimes mistaken for other kinds of snakes and killed by people who are frightened. This snake was lucky in this regard.

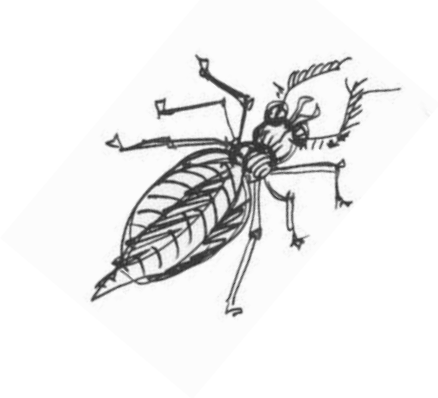
Suzanne Sawyer reports an influx of butterflies in mid-September including three monarchs all visiting her butterfly bush at the same time. She also tells of a return of bats to her yard and of two barred owls calling back and forth. She has big flocks of turkeys coming every day.

On Brett Road, Mel and Lou-Ellen Barkan saw two young bears strolling in their yard in a relaxed manner. They took a lovely movie of this visit.

Carl Hartman has been taking some good close-up photos and sent in one of a millipede, one of a white-marked tussock moth caterpillar, and one of a remarkable walking stick or stick insect. These are orthopterans, or grasshopper relatives. Also in the insect department, we have Maureen Banner's sighting of a colorful carrion beetle with a group of hitch-hiking mites on board. A few days later we had one here, also with mites along. These mites are not parasites, just getting a ride to a good place to eat.

Thank you, folks, for all your observations and good photos.

—Bonner McAllester
bmca@berkshire.net 528-9385



Above—Bill Enlund's motion-activated camera caught this fisher investigating some bait corn. Below left—Maureen Banner discovered this carrion beetle with hitch-hiking mites aboard. The meal is, you know, something fabulous.
Below right—Maureen also caught this swamp milkweed leaf beetle (Black spots on red body) on Bonner's hand.

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
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INFO/TICKETS: SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

Sat, 10/3 10 AM
Suzanne O'Connell Climate Change Lecture #1: Why is CO_2 a greenhouse gas?
Students FREE, all others buy all three for $20.

***In the Gallery* 10/3 - 25**
***Bits and Pieces: Works by Barbara Elton and Lucinda Shmulsky - Opening Reception* - Sat, 10/3 2-4 PM** FREE

Sat, 10/10 10 AM
Climate Change Lecture #2: Importance of understanding atmospheric CO_2 and climate history Students FREE, all others buy all three for $20.

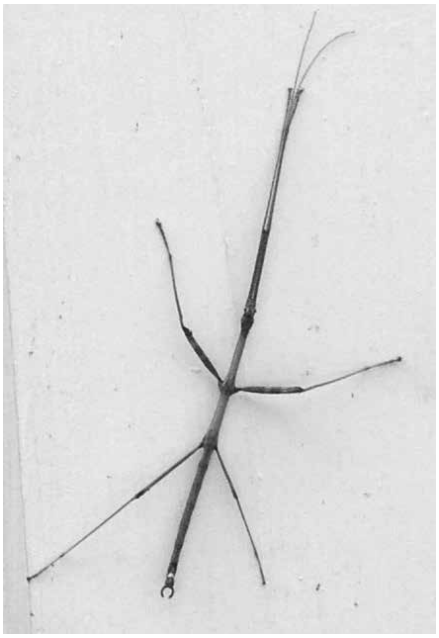
Sat, 10/10 8 PM
Gypsy Layne Cabaret & Co. $20

Sun, 10/11 (9-5) & Mon, 10/12 (9-2)
HUGE Community Tag Sale
WHERE: The Sandisfield Green (Rte 57 & New Hartford Road)

Fri, 10/23 8 PM
Screening of Award Winning "Bob and the Trees" Donation

Sat, 10/24 10 AM
Climate Change Lecture #3: Increased CO_2 & Earth's climate future: Rate of change is the key Students FREE, all others buy all three for $20.

Sat, 10/24 8 PM
Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet $20



Counter-clockwise from above right—Bob Cutick's milk snake, and Carl Hartman's three invertebrates: a white-marked tussock caterpillar, a walking stick insect, and a millipede.

SARAH JACKSON MFA, MA
JUNGIAN ANALYSIS & PSYCHOTHERAPY

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, October 5 and 19, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, October 13, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesdays, October 14 and 28, at 10 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, October 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. Flu shots will be available.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, November 12, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1598). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, October 7, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, October 8 and 22, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Mondays, October 5, 19, and 26, at 4:15 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Office/Town Hall Closings

Town hall will be closed Monday, October 12, for Columbus Day.

The administrative assistant's office will close at noon on October 1 and will be closed on October 2 and 13.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

Last year, the select board began to address the problem of our increasing electric rates. The board discovered that other towns in Massachusetts were exploring the idea of "electrical aggregation." Electrical aggregation is essentially the bulk purchasing of electricity from a specific supplier. As in most things, bulk purchasing tends to result in lower costs. This program was voted in by the state legislature and became available to all towns who submit an application and are approved by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Utilities (DPU). The select board submitted the application in the winter of 2014, and we are pleased to announce that it has finally been approved!

The DPU approval means that Monterey can begin the process of "going out to the market" to purchase electricity. Once a suitable supplier is identified, you will receive a letter stating who they are and what the new electric rates will be. Every homeowner will have the right to opt out of the electrical aggregation plan. Please keep in mind that regardless of who is supplying the electricity, your power will still be distributed by National Grid, and you will still pay a National Grid bill. The name and rate of the new supplier will appear on that bill.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Dept.: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Dept.: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Dept. (non-emergency):
528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

Now, we have saved the best news for last …

National Grid's winter rate is 13.129 cents per kWh. "Aggregated" Berkshire towns are currently being offered 10.4 cents per kWh. While the rates are not locked in until we sign with a supplier, that is a big savings and should be in place by the holidays.

—Scott Jenssen, Chair
Kenn Basler and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(scott@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
For general inquires, please click
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WiredWest for Monterey
go to Register.wiredwest.net
Make Monterey one of the first towns to get connected!

Calendar

Every Sunday: Adult softball. Batting practice at 10, games 10:30, Greene Park.

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings, 4:15 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., town hall meeting room. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Saturday, October 3:

Health Fair, 10 to 2 p.m., Monterey Fire Company. See page 10.

Housatonic Heritage Hikes:

Bob's Way, Route 23, starting at 10 a.m. See page 11.

Centuries of Stone Walls, Bidwell House Museum, starting at 2 p.m. See page 11.

Guided Stargazing, 7 to 9 p.m., Kellogg Center, South Egremont. See p. 10.

Sunday, October 4:

Run for Recovery 2015, 5k route, Gould Farm, starting at 9:30. See page 10.

Run for the Hills, 1 to 10k route, Simon's Rock, starting 9 a.m. See page 10.

Thursday, October 8:

Foot care clinic, 9 to 11:30, town hall meeting room. Call Maryellen Brown 528-1598 for an appointment.

Flu clinic and blood pressure check, town hall meeting room, 2 to 3 p.m. See page 21.

Saturday, October 10:

Octoberfest, Monterey Community Center, 12 to 4 p.m. See page 12.

Pooch Parade, starting from town hall, 1:30 p.m. See page 17.

Saturday and Sunday, October 10 & 11:

Berkshire Botanical Garden's 81st Harvest Festival, Stockbridge. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See page 16.

Tuesday, October 13: Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Thursday, October 15:

Cultural Council Grants due. See page 9.

Lake Garfield drawdown all day.

Saturday, October 17:

O'Connell Transition House ribbon cutting and reception. Curtis Road, Gould Farm. 5 p.m. See page 13.

Knox Gallery. *The Color Incorrect*, Ilene Spiewak. Opening reception 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 7.

Lenox Contra Dance, live music by Pizzazz, with two fiddles, keyboard, and percussion. Jon Greene calling. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007. lenoxcontradance.org

Sunday, October 18: Construct WALK 2015, Ski Butternut, starting at 12:30 p.m. See page 11.

Tuesday, October 20:

Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Monterey News deadline.

Wednesday, October 21: Community Potluck supper, Fellowship Hall, Monterey Meeting house. "Sandisfield Pipeline Extenion." 6 p.m. See page 21.

Saturday, October 24: CET hazardous waste mini-collection, 8:30 to 11:30, in Great Barrington. Go to cetonline.org, click under "Green for Homes" for more info.

Monday, October 26: Adult book group will discuss *Nickel and Dimed,* by Barbara Ehrenreich, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library. See MontereyMassLibrary.org

Saturday, October 31:

Magic with Ed Popielarczyk, Monterey Library. 4:30 p.m. See page 6.

Halloween trick-or-treating at Monterey Library after the end of magic show.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Sunday, November 1:

Wake up at 2 a.m., set all your clocks back one hour, go back to sleep. Or not.

Blessing of the Animals, Monterey Library, 10 a.m. See page 21.

Monday, November 2: 2nd quarter property taxes due. 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Save the Dates

November 30 or December 1: Art works due for *4 Elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air.* See page 7.

Stephen Moore

"Fiddletop" driveway, off the Wellman Road.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 12, 17, 24; George Emmons, p. 14;
Bob Horvath, p. 23; Bonner McAllester, p. 24.

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